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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR APRIL 11, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for April 11, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

ZAMAN / BOLGE / SABAH (GUNEY) / EKSPRES: On the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the Turkish Police Force, major newspapers quote President Sezer and PM Erdogan issuing messages to the police telling them not to harm public trust; Adana papers' coverage of this event include large photos of the official celebration and Bolge quotes Governor Cahit Kirac as saying, "The Turkish police does its job with love and affection. Ninety-four per cent of the matters are solved by means of a good dialogue between the police and the public."

BOLGE: CHP (Republican People's Party) National Headquarters reportedly dismissed Adana's CHP Party Administration at the end of March (see press summary 3/28). Serdar Seyhan, CHP's Adana Provincial Chairman, who kept his seat despite the dismissals, reportedly vowed to draft a new party administration list after consulting the party's grass roots. Bolge reports that Mr. Seyhan has not exchanged ideas with party members to date, indicating that he will submit a list of people close to him to party headquarters.

BOLGE: Mehmet Abaci responded to April 8 complaints made about him by Adana's Yuregir Municipality's bureaucrats (see press summary 4/8). Abaci denying being assigned as Deputy Mayor, said he only worked under the title of "temporary worker" in the Municipality, and stated he had never been a business partner of the Yuregir Mayor nor was he was the "emperor" of the Municipality.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Ozgur Gundem reports the end of the military operations in the Cudi Mountain.

OZGUR GUNDEM: During the 6th Nature and Culture Festival of Munzur to be held in Tunceli on July 28th, the Italian Artists' Union (ASS Vortici) plans to launch an "Art for Peace" campaign to end the conflicts in (Turkey's southeastern) region and to increase public awareness of the cultural rights of the Kurds.

EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Hatip Dicle, a former DEP (Party of Democracy) member and currently Democratic Society Movement's (DSM) Coordination Council member, said that the (Turkish) Chief of Staff should extend an apology for allegedly calling the Kurds "so-called citizens" right after the flag-incident in Mersin. Speaking at a meeting of DSM in Kars, Dicle reportedly added that the "Kurds up in the mountains" (note: read PKK members) were ready to quit fighting should democratic laws be implemented in Turkey. Dicle expressed his wishes for the end of long-living enmities.

CUMHURIYET / ZAMAN / YENI SAFAK / HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): After launching a campaign in Adana calling for the end to the U.S. presence in Incirlik Airbase (see press summary 4/7), IP (Labor Party) erected a flag with a 100-person group in front of the entrance to Incirlik district, where Incirlik Airbase is located. MHP (Nationalist Movement Party) and Turk-Is (Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions) supported the IP demonstration. However, Zaman and Hurriyet Cukurova reports add that the small businessmen in Incirlik reportedly support the idea of the U.S. using Incirlik as a logistics hub.

BOLGE: The Human Rights Commission of the Turkish Parliament prepared a report about the case of Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz's killing. The report pointed out "The case has several (note: unspecified) aspects that must be investigated during the prosecution process ... security forces used excessive and undue force during the incident, which put Turkey in a bad situation in the eyes of its people and of the EU countries."

EKSREPES: Ali Mufit Gurtuna, the former Mayor of Istanbul, paid a visit to the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Adana and discussed economic and industrial issues. Gurtuna said he supported the policy of granting regional incentives. During his meeting in the Adana Chamber of Trade, Gurtuna criticized the lack of cooperation between Mersin and Adana provinces.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The German "human shield" activists asked the AKP government to end human rights violations that are caused by military operations and to release the "human shield" activists

who have been arrested. The German "human shield" activists released a written statement, which stated that not only the (PKK) militants, but also the community in the region and the region's ecological system incurred losses. Drawing attention to the alleged beatings and mistreatment the activists were subjected to during their arrest, the report said that one German activist was held in detention and was (allegedly) exposed to "psychological torture."

EVRENSEL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Despite the ongoing protests (see press summary 4/7) from public finance officers, bureaucrats, and the public, AKP (Justice and Development Party) government ratified the Income Administration Law in the Turkish Parliament.

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